

Juvenile Services Division York County Community Services

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

During the 1970's, concern for youthful offenders and a desire to support the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of the Ninth Judicial District caused local jurisdictions to collectively fund a variety of juvenile justice programs. York County is both a member and the managing jurisdiction of the regional Colonial Group Home Commission. Other members of the Colonial Group Home Commission include York, Gloucester and James City Counties, and the City of Williamsburg. From the onset the Commonwealth has been an active fiscal partner in these activities. Under the management of the York County Department of Community Services, programs delivered by staff of the Juvenile Services Division include the following:

PROJECT INSIGHT:

Project Insight is a community service work program that provides the opportunity for young people to perform public service work in lieu of other traditional sanctions. The youth is usually a first time offender who has been found not innocent of a delinquent offense or has acknowledged their act, is willing to accept less formal consequences and forgo their right to trial. Youth are given the opportunity to make amends by donating his/her time to work sites within the community. Work sites are recruited from governmental agencies and non-profit organizations.

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION:

The Community Supervision Program provides intensive home-based supervision, family counseling, and other case management services as an alternative to detention for juveniles that are out of control in the community, but are not a threat to public safety. Counselors work with the juvenile offender and their entire family in the household setting.

OUTREACH DETENTION - ELECTRONIC MONITORING:

Outreach Detention and Electronic Monitoring are alternatives to placement in a secure detention facility. Outreach Detention is a program that provides intensive supervision to adolescents awaiting adjudication and/or disposition by the Juvenile Court. The Electronic Monitoring Program is essentially an appendage to the Outreach Program. This adds an electronic house arrest feature. The goals of the program are to assure the availability of the offender for court and to prevent further delinquency pending disposition of charges currently before the court. This is accomplished through the provision of direct and indirect supervision. In so far as it relates to keeping the child trouble free and available to the court, each counselor provides for the youth's needs in areas such as counseling and guidance, physical and mental health, recreation and education. This is done either through personal contact by the counselor or through referrals to appropriate agencies.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY YOUTH HOME:

Crossroads is a group home that offers a structured, homelike environment for teenage boys who are having adjustment problems at home, in school, or in the community. The boys reside in the therapeutic setting for a short period of time while remaining close to home, parents and friends. The goal is to return each young man to his natural home whenever possible. While at Crossroads, each resident receives an individualized treatment program geared toward developing self-control and appropriate behavior. The program is designed to meet needs in areas including social, emotional, physical, educational, vocational, and recreational. For many young people, community youth homes have proven to be a successful alternative to commitment to state care and traditional probationary methods.

Grant Funded Programs:

There are currently two extremely valuable grant funded programs:

♦ Psychological Services

This is funded by the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation and provides counseling services, primarily in groups and with specific emphasis on substance abuse, to youthful offenders and their families.

♦ Functional Family Therapy

Functional Family Therapy (FFT), which is funded by a Title II Young Offender grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services. This is a short-term family-based prevention and intervention program that significantly improves mental health outcomes for at risk adolescents and their families. FFT serves young juvenile offenders, age 11-13, who have been adjudicated by the 9th District Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court in the localities of Yorktown, Williamsburg, James City County, Gloucester, Mathews and Poquoson.